

ISSUE NO. 26

SOBO EVENTS

August 4 - October 6, 2025

HIGHLIGHTS

Asia in a Bite Food Fest
(8/9-10)

Peninsula Playhouse Festival
(8/23)

Defenders’ Day Celebrations
(9/12-14)



Scan for the latest updates and more event info

Compiled by Rani Murray

8/4 - Fee-Free Admission to Fort McHenry, 2400 E. Fort Ave. No admission charged in honor of the anniversary of the Great American Outdoors Act. 9am-4:45pm.

8/4 - Wellness on the Waterfront: Boot Camp, Rye Street Park, 301 E. Cromwell St. Outside 45-minute class with Marissa Walch. 6pm.

8/4 - Writers Exchange, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. A read-and-critique group for writers with interest in all forms of writing. 6-7:30pm.

8/5 - Adventures of the Missing Color, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Discover how fun and colorful science can be with hands-on experiments. 10:30am.

8/5 - Paddleboard Hockey, 301 E. Cromwell St., Baltimore Peninsula. Try your hand at paddleboard hockey; registration required. 6pm.

8/6 - Baby & Toddler Storytime, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Stories, movement, songs, and play for little ones under 2 with a favorite adult. 10:30am.

8/6 - Preschool Storytime, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Stories, movement, songs, and play for ages 2-5 with a favorite adult. 11:30am.

8/6 - Farmers’ Market, Checkerspot Brewing Co., 1421 Ridgely St. 5-8pm.

8/6 - Wellness on the Waterfront: Yoga, Rye Street Park, 301 E. Cromwell St. Outside 45-minute vinyasa (flow) class with Marissa Walch. 6pm.

8/6 - Sunset Salsa, Port Covington Marina, 321 E. Cromwell St. Free Latin dancing lessons, music, local food and drinks. 7pm.

8/7 - Paddle and Flow Class, Inner Harbor Marina, 400 Key Hwy. Stand-up paddleboarding followed by yoga session on land. 6-7:45am. \$

8/7 - Community Run/Walk, Harry’s Bar, 1036 E. Fort Ave. Distance 3-6 miles. Sponsored by Bmore Running. 6:30pm.

8/8 - Kayak Lessons, 301 E. Cromwell St., Baltimore Peninsula. Hosted by Eastern Watersports. 5pm. \$

8/8 - Outdoor Movie: ‘Step Up,’ The Lawn on E. Cromwell St. next to Rye Street Tavern, Baltimore Peninsula. 6-11pm.

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OCTOBER 3

SOUTH BALTIMORE
PENINSULA POST
AUG.-SEPT. 2025

Connecting the communities of the South Baltimore (Md.) peninsula since 2021. Published bimonthly by South Baltimore United.

Learning Center
Closes Due to Hold
on Federal Funds

By Steve Cole

A long-running adult education center on the SoBo peninsula closed its doors on July 16 and canceled programs due to a suspension of expected government funding caused by the Trump administration.

The South Baltimore Learning Center (28 E. Ostend Street), a 501c3 nonprofit established in 1990, offers Baltimoreans a variety of programs for adult learners, from GED preparation classes to the National External Diploma Program, from workforce development training to mindfulness and trauma-informed care. The Center had just begun its annual summer semester classes on July 1 with a record enrollment (182 learners).

SBLC leadership told the *Peninsula Post* on July 22 that they do not know when the Center will be able to reopen and resume classes.

The nonprofit’s new fiscal year had started with good news from the Maryland State Department of Labor, which provides nearly half of the organization’s operating budget through an Adult Education and Family Literacy Services grant, a combination of state funds from the Department of Labor and federal education funds.

“Around July 1, we received our notice of grant award from the state, and it was an increase from the previous year, up to \$668,000 from \$657,000,” said SBLC executive director Melissa Smith. Typically, about one-third of that funding is dispersed to SBLC in the summer. The nonprofit relies on those funds to cover operating expenses. This grant, which SBLC has received annually for well over a decade, makes up about half of the organization’s \$1.4 million operating budget, said board president Ann Schroth.

“But then about a week later, we received another email from the Maryland Department of Labor stating that, unfortunately, they could not disperse funds at this time due to a review requested by the Trump administration. The funds are on hold due to this review process,” said Smith.

According to Schroth, SBLC’s contacts in the state are in the dark about this federal review. “Their challenge is they just don’t have any information. They have all these nonprofits and parties who need funds, and they can’t help because they don’t have any information. The best-case scenario is the review gets wrapped up quickly and the amount we were expecting is paid. But we have no idea about timing. We have no idea about whether



A COMMUNITY STREET FESTIVAL returned to the Federal Hill business district on July 19 after a long drought, as the God’s Best Family nonprofit moved its annual “South Baltimore Friends and Family Day” to the 1000 block of S. Charles Street. Previously held in Solo Gibbs Park, the festival was part fundraiser for the organization’s planned community space on the block (see *Peninsula Post*, August 2024) and part celebration of bringing together the diverse SoBo neighborhoods. Photo by Steve Cole.

we’ll get all the funds.”

The funding gap hit SBLC at a critical time in its annual budget cycle. “Very often, the summer is a period where we’re not getting many foundation grants,” Schroth said, “so we really rely on this government grant to get through the summer.”

“We can’t even pay expenditures that we would have incurred for the month of July,” Smith said. “That includes salaries, utility bills, vendors, and educational materials.”

“We were at the point where we didn’t have funds to pay staff,” Schroth added. “And we could not in good conscience ask people to continue to work until we solved our funding issues.” She believes it is likely that SBLC will lose some staff as a result of the disruption in pay and uncertainty about the future. The nonprofit employs 21 full-time and part-time staff members.

In response to the immediate funding shortfall and the uncertainty about the future of the government grant, SBLC leadership is actively

seeking financial resources that will allow the organization to quickly restart programs. “Right now, we’re in dire need of emergency funding, some kind of investor or funding source that can donate at this moment to get us over this immediate need so we can bring learners back,” said Smith.

SBLC has reached out to elected officials, including Governor Wes Moore and Mayor Brandon Scott, both of whom offered their support, said Smith. Maryland State Senator Bill Ferguson reported that he has been in touch with the Maryland departments of Education and Labor and potential private funders to resolve SBLC’s immediate funding needs.

The organization is also making an appeal directly to the public for support and donations. On July 23, over two dozen SBLC staff, board members, and graduates gathered for a rally on the steps of the Ostend Street building with calls to “Keep SBLC Open” and “Save SBLC.”

“This is worth fighting for,” Smith said at the rally. She is clearly a passionate believer in the nonprofit’s mission. “SBLC matters,” she said. “We want to continue to offer these services because we know that it is going to have a positive impact on our community at large. This is generational improvement. This is breaking cycles of poverty.”

As of July 27 (when this issue of the *Peninsula Post* went to press), SBLC had not announced the resumption of classes or reopening of the Center.

For more information about SBLC and how to make a donation, visit southbaltimorelearns.org.



FROM THE EDITOR

A Peninsula’s Antidote for Summer Swelter

Our South Baltimore peninsula has plenty of the modern conveniences to help us deal with the heat of a Baltimore summer – swimming pools, museums, bars, ice cream – but nature has blessed us with a special edge: we are nearly surrounded by water. (The Latin translation of “peninsula” literally means “almost an island.”)

From coast (Inner Harbor) to coast (Fort McHenry) to coast (West Covington Park), we SoBohemians have miles of ready access to the cooler waters around us and, more and more, plenty of ways to enjoy them.

You can walk our meandering promenade along much of the northern shore, hop on a harbor-crossing water taxi or sightseeing cruise, and watch Dragon Boat and sailing races. And the opportunities to get your athletic self closer to the water grow each year (“paddleboard hockey”?).

Check out the SoBo Events calendar in this issue and some of our advertisers (Canton Kayak Club, p. 4) for details. And get out there and cool off with the aquatic gifts of peninsula life! – *Steve Cole, Editor-in-Chief*

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Wellness Classes Coming to Sharp-Leadenhall

A wide variety of new wellness programs – from tai chi and exercise classes to healthy eating workshops – will be coming to the Sharp-Leadenhall community starting this fall. The programs are funded by a \$20,000 grant from the Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute that was awarded to the Historic Sharp-Leadenhall Community nonprofit this summer.

The grant funds the nonprofit’s new “Community Initiatives for Resocialization, Cancer Prevention, and Living Well for Residents in South Baltimore” project, which is a community-university collaboration focused on research and program development that advances health equity and improves the well-being of residents.

Betty Bland-Thomas, president of the nonprofit, said the project grew out of her awareness that many in her community suffer from multiple health issues, including high blood pressure, stress, diabetes, and even various forms of cancer. A chance meeting with Dr. Kimiko Krieger, a cancer research specialist at Johns Hopkins, led to the development of the collaborative project to address those issues, Bland-Thomas said.

While a specific schedule of activities is still being developed, programs will include various forms of movement (tai chi, dance, chair yoga), mental health, and developing healthy eating habits, according to Bland-Thomas. Special boat cruises on the harbor are also being considered for regular participants in the program.

The classes and workshops will each run for several weeks and will be open to the entire community, Bland-Thom-



‘DIVE INTO BANNED BOOKS’ was the theme of this year’s Fluid Movement water ballet, which brought its celebration of resistance, reading, and joy to Riverside Park pool on July 26 and 27. Photos by Mary Braman.

as said. She expects the programs will be held at various locations throughout the neighborhood, primarily at churches, including Ebenezer AME (20 W. Montgomery), Martini Lutheran (100 W. Henrietta), St. Barnabas & St. Susanna Coptic Orthodox (938

S. Hanover), and Leadenhall Baptist (1021 Leadenhall).

For more information about the program and the schedule of events, contact Betty Bland-Thomas by email at bettyblandthomas@comcast.net or call 443-204-7740. – S. C.

New Businesses on the South Baltimore Peninsula

The following businesses opened recently in SoBo:

Bellini’s Harborview, 500 Harborview Drive. Outdoor patio bar facing the marina.

Bodega & Vino, 1121 Hull St. Specialty market, wine bar, and multiuse neighborhood space. bodegaandvino.com.

Daily Grind, 2455 House St. (facing E. Cromwell St.), Baltimore Peninsula. Coffee, all-day breakfast, hot sandwiches, and salads. 410-419-0069.

Jollof Bowl, Cross Street Market, 1065 S. Charles St. West African, Caribbean, and South American cuisine. 202-938-6887.

Real Estate Executives, 1200 S. Charles St. Brokerage firm specializing in residential and commercial transactions. 1-833-381-HOME

RX Wellness Spine & Health, 1425 Light Street. Chiropractors offering relief care for immediate pain, corrective care to address root causes, and wellness care to maintain spinal health. 410-949-1233.

Santino Ristorante, 1022 Light Street. Italian restaurant. 410-800-2485.

Symmetry Salon Studios, 911 E. Fort Avenue, Southside Marketplace. Community-driven network for beauty

and wellness entrepreneurs with fully equipped studio spaces for stylists to create their own salon experience. 301-228-0131.

The Sparkle Nail Spa, 101 W. Cross Street. Offers pedicures, manicures, nail designs, and waxing. 443-869-2158.

True Barber Shop, 2 E. Wheeling Street, Suite 101. 443-929-6694.

Walkway to Healing, 1200 Light Street, first floor. Provides holistic, comprehensive care for individuals struggling with substance abuse. Treatment options include outpatient care, partial hospitalization, and supportive housing. 410-934-7976.

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Women's and Children's Shelter Reopens at Christ Lutheran Church

The Baltimore Outreach Services' shelter for homeless women and their children, located in the basement of the Christ Lutheran Church (701 S. Charles Street), officially reopened on June 24, almost a year to the day after an electrical fire ravaged the facility. The renovation of the church's basement has allowed BOS to improve and expand its shelter and services.

Over the last year, BOS revamped the space with the help of the architecture firm Alexander Design Studio and contractor Hencken & Gaines. The new shelter features 30 beds in a dormitory-style setup with family-friendly bathrooms that include a baby toilet, bathtubs, and private stand-up showers.

The shelter's multipurpose room is now centered on trauma-informed care with a focus on wellness for families. Mothers can utilize this space to nurse infants, and children can read in the new reading corner. Also included are a lounge for residents to decompress, a brand-new laundry room, and a workforce development room featuring computers and workstations, which residents can use if they are working remotely. The entire facility is Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible.

Five of the seven families in the shelter before the fire have moved to permanent housing. New families were being interviewed through July to become residents.

With the reopening of the shelter, BOS is introducing a new approach to

helping families get back on their feet, according to executive director Yvonne Terry. In the past, families tended to stay in the shelter for about 90 days before the program found suitable accommodations for them to move to and live on their own. The new, more comprehensive approach that BOS has adopted allows families to stay in the shelter between 5 and 10 months, which Terry says helps families stay

permanently housed after they leave the shelter and reduces their chances of returning.

"What we're doing is taking the opportunity to really help them become independent and self-sufficient, to work on themselves, and to work on some of the barriers that caused their homelessness in the first place," Terry said. BOS works closely with the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services

to match families with appropriate housing. Social workers and psychologists are still present at the shelter and are positive assets within the program, she said.

If you would like to help support the BOS Christ Lutheran shelter, call 410-752-1285. They take donations of clothes, hand sanitizer, and more. Monetary donations are also welcomed. – John Thomas

Library Publishes Light Street Writers Anthology

A creative writing program based at the Enoch Pratt Free Library on Light Street is celebrating its tenth anniversary with the publication of *10Fold: A Decade of Voices from the Light Street Writers Exchange*.

The Light Street Writers Exchange was founded in 2015 by Laura A. Hazan, a librarian at the Light Street branch, and the group continues to meet regularly. "Programs at public libraries generally don't have a 10-year lifespan," Hazan noted, "especially with a pandemic in the middle."

Hazan, a fiction writer, started the Exchange after belonging to a similar group in St. Louis. "Participants bring their own creative writing, read their work aloud to the group, and the rest of the group critiques," she said. "Participants credit the Writers Exchange with improving their craft, expanding their writing community, and helping them get published – all excellent rea-

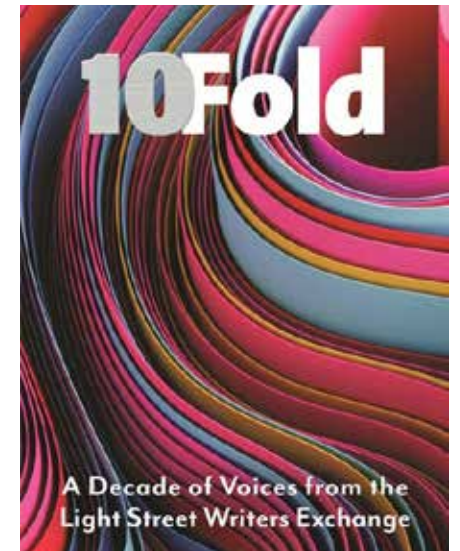
sons to celebrate."

For the anniversary, Hazan proposed a group anthology, and the library agreed to publish it. "I put out a call to as many current and past Writers Exchange participants as I could find," she said. "After careful evaluation by volunteer reviewers, final pieces were chosen and edited."

Hazan laid out the contents and sent the manuscript to the Pratt team. Eric Archibald in Pratt's graphics department created the cover art and formatted the pages. Andrew Klein and Emily Levine were also instrumental in bringing the book to fruition.

10Fold contains 44 pieces by 38 writers from the program, including short stories, poetry, novel excerpts, and creative nonfiction.

On July 26, the group hosted a tenth anniversary celebration at the Light Street library with readings by 20 of the published writers.



A limited number of copies of the anthology are available free at the library. A PDF version can also be requested via email, and (of course) the volume will be available to check out from the library's collection. – Robert Hardy



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Pinpointing Where The 'Star-Spangled Banner' Was Born

By Scott S. Sheads

On June 18, the U.S. Coast Guard once again returned the red-white-and-blue Francis Scott Key Buoy to its position in the Patapsco River near the Francis Scott Key Bridge, an annual ritual started in 1914 during the National Star-Spangled Banner Centennial. Removed each winter for maintenance and repair, the buoy marks the location in the river where it was once thought that Key witnessed the bombardment of Fort McHenry in September 1814, inspiring him to write the poem that would become our National Anthem.

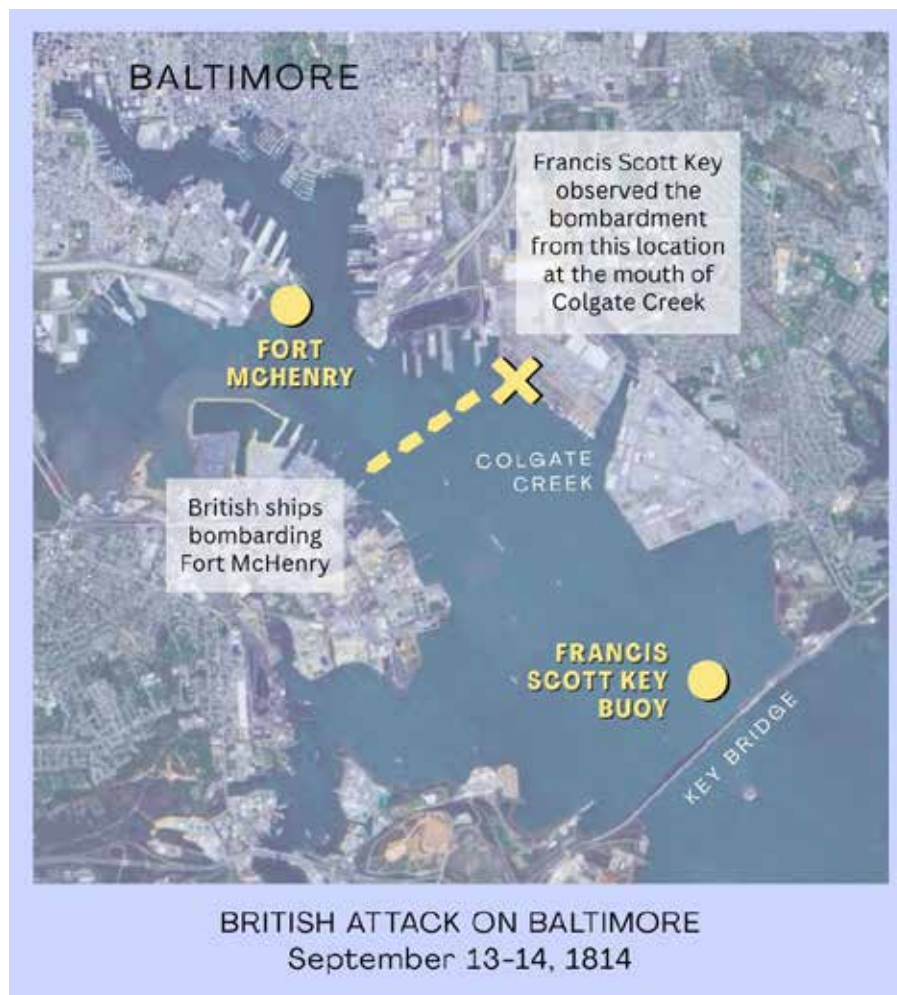
Recent historical research, however, has found that Key actually watched the "rockets' red glare" from a location much closer to the Fort.

When the buoy's location four miles from Fort McHenry was selected in 1914, there was scant evidence available documenting the name of the American flag-of-truce vessel on which Key stood, much less where the ship was located on the river. (The location was the suggestion of Dr. Arthur B. Bibbins, chairman of the board of directors for the 1914 celebration.) When it was discovered in the 1950s that the leading candidate for the British vessel that Key stood on (the 74-gun HMS *Minden*) was serving in Southeast Asia at the time, a renewed search began to find the flag-of-truce vessel's actual name and location during the bombardment of Fort McHenry.

It was a daunting task, as Fort McHenry superintendent George Mackenzie pointed out in 1956: "The problem of determining the location of the cartel sloop from which Francis Scott Key saw our flag on the morning of September 14, 1814, is a perplexing one."

Since then, the improved availability of documents from archives in the United States and the United Kingdom as well as regional newspaper accounts of ship movements in the Chesapeake Bay during the battle have shed new light on this important American story. Recent research by local historians revealed that Key's vantage point was much closer to Fort McHenry — just two miles away — near the mouth of Colgate (formerly Colegate) Creek at a spot that now lies beneath Seagirt Marine Terminal.

An initial clue as to what ship Key



was on came from knowing who he was traveling with. Key was on the Patapsco River in September 1814 as part of a diplomatic mission with Colonel John S. Skinner, the U.S. State Department commissary for Prisoners of War, that successfully negotiated the release of a prominent American prisoner. Their vessel was detained by the British so that the Americans onboard would not reveal details of the British naval forces preparing to attack Baltimore.

In a series of articles published in 1956 in *Baltimore Magazine*, Port of Baltimore historian Ralph J. Robinson determined that Skinner "used a single vessel for diplomatic missions throughout 1814." Subsequent research by Lou Giles, president of the Society of the War of 1812, and this author, a retired National Park Service ranger at Fort McHenry, determined that the truce ship was probably the *Stephen Decatur*.

The *Stephen Decatur* was one of sev-

eral packet boats owned by brothers John and Benjamin Ferguson operating out of Fells Point to carry passengers and mail between Baltimore and Norfolk, Virginia. In 1811, Benjamin Ferguson advertised that he "has added to his line of Norfolk Packets two copper vessels." These vessels were the sloop *Stephen Decatur* and an unnamed schooner which was sold in 1812. The *Decatur's* master was Captain John Ferguson, who utilized the sloop in May and June of 1814 on two missions on the bay.

A timeline of the *Decatur's* location before and after the Fort McHenry bombardment can be reconstructed from U.S. and British reports and entries in the captain's logbook of HMS frigate *Surprise*, flagship of British Vice Admiral Cochrane during the Baltimore campaign, to which the *Decatur* was tethered.

On Sunday, September 11, 1814, the *Surprise* and *Decatur* were off North Point (8 miles from Fort McHenry) af-



The Francis Scott Key Buoy (above) was first placed in the Patapsco River in 1914 at what was thought to be Key's shipboard location during the British bombardment of Fort McHenry. Recent historical research has found that Key was actually much closer to the Fort during the battle.

ter the landing of British troops there, sailing upriver to keep in communication with the troops as they moved toward Baltimore.

On Monday, September 12, the two ships were about 4 miles from the Fort, off Bear Creek. (This is approximately where the Key Buoy is currently located.)

On Tuesday, September 13, the ships were off Colgate Creek, about 2 miles from the Fort, as the bombardment began. Early in the morning of Wednesday, September 14, the last cannons and bombs were fired and shortly after, the garrison flag was raised over the Fort's ramparts, inspiring a nation's anthem. The British bombardment squadron then sailed down the river with the *Decatur* in tow.

On September 16, after the British withdrawal, the *Decatur* and Francis Scott Key returned to Fells Point. Within a few days, Key's poem was printed in a Baltimore newspaper and the "Star-Spangled Banner" was born.

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Capitol Hill Chamber Music Festival

Aug 3 | 2 PM

"The 18th-Century Harpsichord in Spain"

Featuring international artist Irene Roldán.

Aug 6 | 7 PM

"Baroque in Transition"

Featuring harpsichord, violin, and flute.

Aug 10 | 2 PM

"Bach and Scarlatti"

Featuring harpsichord and flute.

Neighborhood Shredding Event - FREE!

Aug 23 | 10 AM - 1 PM

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Free Concert: Guitar Master's Recital

Aug 15 | 6 PM

Andrés Felipe Palacios, Peabody Guitar Master's Degree Recital.

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Aug 16 | 7 PM

(Indoors in case of rain)

Join us in the Christ Lutheran Plaza for an evening of contemporary Christian music with Christopher and Annie Correlli, and special guest musicians. Christopher Correlli is the Lead Worship Pastor at Mountain Christian Church.

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SOBO PENINSULA PARENTING

It feels like just yesterday that I was writing about the start of summer, so it's wild to be writing about back-to-school tips for families already. That being said, fall on the peninsula has long been one of my favorite times, so I'm excited to share more of this love with you all! – *Beth Mayr*

Community Events

Second Sundays: Riverside Park Concerts. These fun concerts in Riverside Park continue in August and September, complete with food trucks, beer/wine, and more. My kiddos love bopping to the music as we picnic in the park with friends. *5-8pm on August 10, 4-7pm on September 14*

September 13: Locust Point Festival. Held in Latrobe Park, this festival hosts over 2,500 people every year. My kids love the live music, time on the playground and in the Kids Zone, and fun food. I love grabbing a crush, a bite to eat from booths of some of the peninsula's most loved restaurants, and gifts for every holiday coming soon. It's a can't-miss day for the whole family! *11am-6pm.*

September 27: Oktoberfest. Way back when, German immigrants were some of the first residents of Federal Hill, so it is fitting that there's an Oktoberfest at Holy Cross Church (110 E. West Street) every fall. Complete with German beer and food (new this year: spaetzle!), live polka band, raffles, a silent auction, and wheels of chance, adults will find plenty of entertainment. The kids will love the free Kids Zone with face painting, pumpkin decorating, and other fall-themed activities (and don't worry, there's kid-friendly hot dogs, mac and cheese, and pretzels). *11am-3:30pm.*

Giving Back

I'll always sing the praises of God's Best Family, an incredible local non-profit that hosts an after-school program for kids from Sharp-Leaden-hall who attend the three peninsula elementary schools. Digital Harbor High School is also making incredible strides. I met Principal Jackson not long ago and was totally impressed by her vision, energy, and support for her students. Both would be great places to volunteer or to donate, if you are looking to support a school-focused initiative this fall.

Back-to-School Tips for Pre-K and K Parents

About a year ago, the South Baltimore Peninsula Parents Facebook group (one of my faves, highly recommended!) had a great thread about tips for new pre-K and kindergarten parents. Here are some top tips:

Bring a snack to after-school pickup. Some of the youngest friends eat the earliest, so definitely stick something in your bag on the way to dismissal.

Don't be ashamed of head lice. The most commented tip related to head lice. (Are you as surprised as I am?!) Head lice are common in younger classrooms, but not something to be ashamed of. Sharing with the school and other parents when it is discovered helps to prevent the spread, so please be communicative and not ashamed. Many parents also recommended Fairy Tales Hair Care pre-treatment and having a lice treatment kit on hand.

Stay calm. A few parents noted an influx of event emails, notes from the school, paperwork to turn in, and



The Locust Point Festival in September is a can't-miss day for the whole family. Photo by Mary Braman.

more. A lot of it will not apply to you. The paperwork will not always be that much. Ask other seasoned parents for tips on using the school's preferred app or emails. Don't get discouraged. Post the calendar on your fridge. A few parents even suggested creating a new family email solely for school and activities.

Send in extras, as possible. Pack the extra clothes for those "just in case" moments and set a reminder on your phone to swap out for the season change. When asked to send in something, send in an extra one if you can. And if you think about bringing in something for your kid's teacher – just do it. They deserve it!

Don't plan much for Fridays. The Friday evening exhaustion will be real

for a few weeks (or even a few years). Avoid planning too much and stay close to home for dinner and an easy bedtime.

Be prepared. Take out \$50 in singles and have them on hand for random dress-down days, activities, snacks, and events. Talk to the tooth fairy about any supplies needed for when the time comes.

Prepare your children to be independent. Practice taking on/off shoes (velcro or slip-on shoes make this even easier). Work on buttons, zippers, and snaps. Remind them to close the bathroom door when using the restroom. Teach your child how to open and close their lunch containers and what to throw away or not. Use a timer to practice eating lunch in 20-ish minutes. Make sure they know how to ask a trusted adult, "Can you help me?"

Communicate with your teacher. Concerned about something? Bring it up directly with your child's teacher, instead of agonizing or venting too much to other parents. Keep a line of communication open with the teacher, even just a hi or check-in periodically can go a long way. If you feel a need to go to an administrator, be sure you have spoken to the teacher about it first.

Give your child (and you) grace. It's common to have a great first few days, where your child enthusiastically enters school without looking back. After a few days, your child may hit "the sophomore slump," feeling nervous to go to school or discouraged about the day. Be patient and give your child grace during this big adjustment. Remind them that it's okay to be upset, nervous, etc. They may frequently want a brief nap after school, and that's okay too. Some parents noted this reaction may come after a few weeks. Know that the first month may not accurately reflect the whole year.

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French-Tunisian Patisserie Creates Sweet and Savory Delights

By Robert Hardy

Chef Ahlem Kechrid stands in her tiny kitchen at the back of the **La Cosette French Artisan Pastry Shop** on a warm spring morning on E. Fort Avenue. A small woman with big energy and a strong sense of creative purpose, the chef is working with an array of pastries on the neatly arranged surface in front of her. She is surrounded by packed shelves of colorful ingredients in glass jars, bins, and boxes: flours, sugars, nuts, berries, seasonings, and spices.

"I am happy here," she says with a contented smile and a distinctive French accent. "I wake up at 4am each day, and I arrive by 5am. This is my space. A small one, but I love it," she says.

La Cosette occupies the first floor of a rowhouse on the corner of E. Fort and Boyle Street, painted white with bright blue trim and awnings. It's the same spot that housed the popular Baba's Mediterranean Kitchen for nearly 15 years. The hand-chalked sign on the street out front reads "Bonjour, Beautiful People." Walking in the front door casts visitors into the atmosphere of a traditional French patisserie, with Parisian bal musette playing in the background. Paintings by local artists decorate the walls.

The pungent aroma of freshly brewing Turkish coffee fills the air, but it is the spacious glass cases in the front of the shop that draw the eye, displaying a rich, colorful, and textural array of the delights that are La Cosette's specialties.

Behind the counter, Myriam is the friendly face of the front of the house. She can describe each one of the chef's creations and detail the ingredients: freshly baked cookies (orange, chocolate cherry, matcha); individual-size chocolate and hazelnut "good morning" cakes and "cakes of the chef"; elegant pistachio fondant and ferrero rocher (chocolate hazelnut); buttery, flaky croissants with rich, creamy fillings of chocolate, almond, pistachio, and lemon; and magnificent fruit tarts, large and small: raspberry, blueberry, hazelnut, raspberry pistachio, and lemon.

If one's sweet tooth is overwhelmed, there is a rack of savory spinach and cheese quiches, smoked salmon sandwiches, ham and cheese croissant sandwiches, and panini, all made fresh in-house, as well as fresh lemonade and fruit juices, espresso and cappuccino, and the specialty Turkish coffee.

The Kechrid family, who own and operate La Cosette, came to Maryland



Chef Ahlem Kechrid puts the finishing touches on a lemon tart, one of the many varieties she crafts at La Cosette French Artisan Pastry Shop. The Fort Avenue bakery opened in 2023. Photo by Mary Braman.

from Tunisia in 2005. Ahlem's husband, Faouzi, had retired from his profession as a veterinarian, and their sons, Rafik and Karim, attended the University of Maryland. Rafik is president of Next Level Soccer, a Maryland-based nonprofit youth soccer organization. He is often in the shop, and everyone in the family pitches in to help manage the business.

When Ahlem retired from her profession teaching French and biology in Tunisia, she began studying to fulfill her dream of becoming a patissier. She took baking courses and attended workshops in France and Tunisia, eventually starting a catering business, specializing in classic French techniques, but with a decidedly Tunisian influence.

"Savory and sweet," she says, describing the Tunisian culinary aesthetic. "Fruits and nuts are very important. Especially nuts: almond,

hazelnut, pistachio. I can't work without nuts."

The family encouraged Ahlem to come to Baltimore to practice her craft, in part because Rafik "couldn't get a fruit tart as good as hers" anywhere nearby. "Tunisia is a former French colony with a strong French culture and a long history of French baking," Rafik notes. "[Ahlem] has always loved baking and French cuisine, and this was her dream, so regardless, she was going to do it."

They happened to come across the building that housed Baba's, which was available for long-term lease, and they quickly negotiated a deal for the property. The Kechrids opened La Cosette in November 2023.

Back in the kitchen, racks of metal pastry molds of various sizes and shapes hang from the wall behind the chef. She reaches up for a small, round form and uses it to cut shapes from the

buttery dough rolled out before her: a pate sucee crust. One morning, it's almond tarts, pecan tarts, and cookies, smelling delightful coming out of the oven. This morning, it's small fruit tarts, topped with bright, fresh raspberries, blueberries, and sliced mango.

"For the crusts, flour, sugar, butter," Chef Ahlem says, then emphasizes with a smile, "Oh yes, don't forget the butter!" She uses gluten-free flour, also wheat flour. "Almond flour is best," she whispers, "but many people have allergies, so no almond flour."

Among the baking sheets, mixing bowls, whisks, and spoons, the chef arranges her ingredients. She squeezes a creamy custard filling from a bulging piping bag, filling the tiny crusts and smoothing the surfaces with a spoon, then she tops them with the colorful fresh fruit. Next, she softly brushes a light mixture of sugar and water on to each delicate tart, adding a shiny glaze.


Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, chef prepares the tart crusts, which need to be ready to go on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday mornings when the shop is open. The fillings are made on the day of sale. She follows a similar schedule for her buttery croissants, and she also includes quiches and other regular savories in the rotation. "And always special orders," she notes: "Mother's Day, Valentine's Day. Lots of family-size tarts, special cakes of the chef, and lots and lots of cookies."

The fresh Turkish coffee that the chef prepares daily is a special manifestation of the Tunisian influence at La Cosette. "We do a traditional presentation, with the traditional metal pot, the cezve, and small cups," Rafik says as the aroma wafts through the shop. "It's not for on the go, but for sitting down and relaxing, taking time to enjoy the aesthetics of it. Chef adds orange water and cardamom, and it's brewed in the pot and served in espresso quantities. For some, it's an acquired taste. It's strong, but it's quite delicious and goes very well with chef's pastries."

As we sip the dark, rich coffee at a sunny table in the front of the shop, Myriam brings over an ornate silver tray of golden, sugar-dusted star-shaped cookies, each adorned with a big glistening almond in the center. "Chef asks if you would like to try some of these new cookies she's baking."

La Cosette's usual hours are Thursday and Friday 8:30am to 5pm, Saturday 8:30am to 4pm, and Sunday 8:30am to 2pm. (The shop is closed in August for a semi-annual break.)

For special orders, visit the shop's website at lacosettepastryshop.com.



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Groups Plan Community Potluck, Festival, and End-of-Summer Bash



The South Baltimore peninsula has several neighborhood groups working to make our part of the city a great place to live. SoBo 2Gether is a regular column of updates from these organizations on community projects that you can get involved in.

Federal Hill Main Street
fedhill.org
execdirector@fedhill.org

Federal Hill Main Street is bringing neighbors together with **two exciting initiatives** that celebrate both our local flavors and rich community history.

First up: Our **Pizza Competition** is officially underway and runs through August! We're inviting everyone to eat their way through Federal Hill's amazing pizza offerings and vote for their favorite slice. Whether you're team thin crust or deep dish, classic margherita, or adventurous toppings, you have all month to explore the diverse flavors our Main Street corridor has to offer while supporting local businesses. Grab a friend, grab a slice, and cast your vote for Federal Hill's best pizza. For all the details, see the *Pizza My Heart* link on our website.

But we're not just looking forward. We're also celebrating where we've been. You may have spotted our team around the neighborhood recently as

we've been hard at work on something special. We're thrilled to announce the upcoming launch of our **new historical video** about Federal Hill.

This isn't just another neighborhood overview. Our video dives deep into the historical significance that makes Federal Hill unique, showcases the evolution of our Main Street, reflects on the journey that brought us to where we are today, and highlights the incredible opportunities for growth ahead. It's a love letter to our community that honors our past while looking toward our bright future.

From pizza slices to historical insights, Federal Hill Main Street continues to be the heart of our community. Stay tuned to our social media channels for the video launch. You won't want to miss this celebration of everything that makes our neighborhood special.

Ready to vote for your favorite pizza and learn about your neighborhood's story? Follow Federal Hill Main Street and join the conversation about what makes our community thrive. – *Charlotte Faust, Project Manager*

Federal Hill Neighborhood Association
federalhillbaltimore.org
president@federalhillbaltimore.org

FHNA is taking a summer recess until September 16, when we'll resume our **regular meetings**. They are held on the third Tuesday of the month. We regularly have city leaders and elected



officials come speak. It's a great venue to voice your concerns, meet other neighbors, and hear about volunteer opportunities.

Despite our summer hiatus, our team of volunteers has been hard at work organizing a **Robert Baker Park Community Potluck**. It will be held on August 9 at 5pm in Robert Baker Park (also known as Gateway Park). The park is a hidden gem located at the intersection of Key Highway and Light Street. The event will be free, but we're hoping to raise some funds to help beautify the park. You can make donations online at fhna.wildapricot.org/Donate or in person.

Water was just restored to the park after several months. Thank you to Councilman Blanchard's office and the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs for helping us get water service reinstated.

We are also planning **two tree plantings** this fall and a **neighborhood**

cleanup. Please stay tuned for more information regarding those events.

Finally, thank you to all of the neighbors that have provided footage in response to the large-scale car break-in that happened on the morning of June 13. If you haven't already, please join the **SOBO Camera Network** at bit.ly/sobocamerasurvey. – *Locchanan Sreeharikesan, President*

Federal Hill South Neighborhood Association
federalhillsouth.org
federalhillsouthna@gmail.com

The summer is going by fast! FHSNA is taking a hiatus from meetings, but there are always things in the works.

We have another **Dumpster Day** coming up on September 6 from 8am to noon at the Digital Harbor High School parking lot. Note: Please do not bring metal items. They cannot be



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More to come for the holiday season!



placed in the dumpster.

An **End-of-Summer Neighborhood Bash** will be held September 7 from 4 to 7pm. Come on out to the St. Ignatius Loyola Academy basketball court at the corner of Gittings and Battery for games, snacks, drinks, and conversation with your neighbors. This is a family-friendly event. Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Our next **general association meeting** will be held September 30 at St. Ignatius Loyola Academy. Doors open at 6:30pm for social time, and the meeting begins at 7pm. – *Nadine Bowen, President*

Key Highway Community Association
keyhca.org
keyhca@gmail.com

KHCA's **quarterly general meeting** on June 18 was chock-full of information for the community. Delegates Luke Clippinger and Mark Edelson discussed what went on in the state legislature regarding transportation, juvenile crime, and upcoming law changes. Baltimore City Police Department officer Collette Longmire addressed safety concerns and stated that crime in Baltimore City is at an all-time low. Baltimore City Sheriff Sam Cogen described how he is instituting changes in his office, including adding social workers to his staff dealing with evictions. – *Janan Broadbent, President*

Locust Point Civic Association
mylocustpoint.org
contacts@mylocustpoint.org

LPCA **membership meetings** will be held on August 13 and September 10 at Francis Scott Key Elementary/

Middle School on E. Fort Avenue. All meetings start at 7:30pm.

We will be having our annual **Locust Point Festival** on September 13 from 11am to 6pm in Latrobe Park. For more details, please visit mylocustpoint.org/locust-point-festival.

The annual **Defenders' Day** parade in Locust Point takes place on September 12. The parade starts at 7pm in front of Bodega and Vino (1121 Hull Street) and ends at Fort McHenry, with stops along the way. For more information, visit nps.gov/fomc/planyourvisit/defenders-day.htm.

– *Dave Arndt, Board Member*

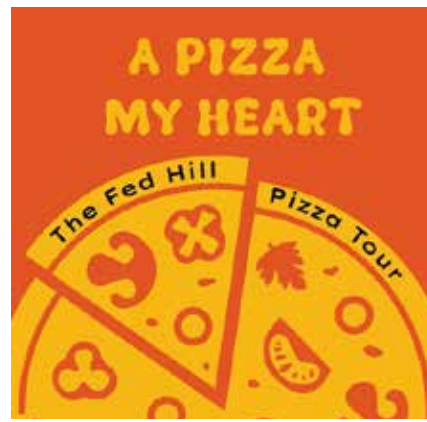
Riverside Neighborhood Association
riversideneighborhoodassociation.com
rnabaltimore@gmail.com

Summer is progressing for RNA. We recently held our **second summer concert** featuring Roses N Rust, which delivered an excellent performance.

RNA continues to collaborate with the city on various neighborhood issues. Here are some highlights:

In partnership with the National Federation of the Blind, RNA sent a letter to the Department of Transportation requesting the installation of **audible pedestrian signals** at E. Fort Avenue and Lawrence Street to make crossings easier and safer for RNA's blind residents. DOT has agreed to these upgrades and aims to complete them by October, once funding is secured.

We are working with the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services and the Downtown Partnership of Baltimore (which provides outreach in District 11) to connect **unhoused Baltimoreans in Riverside Park** with services and help them find more suitable



Federal Hill Main Street Pizza Tour



Defenders' Day in Locust Point

housing instead of the park.

We are aware of the **downed tree** in Riverside Park playground and are awaiting its removal.

We are collaborating with Rec and Parks on repairing the **watering system in the lower field**, aiming for a long-term fix.

Don't forget to join us for the next Riverside Concert with Remedy on August 10! – *Jeff Dewberry, President*

South Baltimore Neighborhood Association

mysobo.org
executive_board@mysobo.org

Led by President Tara McNulty, SBNA meets at 6:30pm on the second Tuesday of each month at AJ's on Hanover (1500 S. Hanover St., 2nd floor) except August (no meeting) and December (holiday party). The next meetings are September 9, October 14, and November 11.

SBNA includes the blocks between Cross Street (to the north), McComas Street (to the south), Race Street (to the west), and Light Street (to the east).

Recent presentations at community meetings have focused on transportation, public safety, and parking. SBNA plans to announce a **community cleanup** in the near future. Stay tuned. Those interested can contact Clean & Green Chair Ryan McEaney (Ryan.McEaney@mysobo.org).

SBNA is always seeking **new members!** Annual membership fees (\$20 per person) cover operating expenses and fund efforts to improve the safety and aesthetic of the area you call home. Treasurer Peter Bartels accepts payments in cash, by check, or through Square.

A special thank you to Max Reason and Rebecca Bielamowicz who volunteered to represent SBNA at **I Love SoBo Day** on May 4.

If you live in SBNA and are interested in **volunteering**, the following committees are recruiting: Clean & Green, Public Safety, and Website. Check out our recently revamped website for more information. – *Justin Lane, Secretary*



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Swing by and check out our newest **local partners** like Drama Mama Bookshop, Mount Royal, Hon's Honey, Casa Figlia, and Taharka Brothers—plus returning favorites like Route One Apparel and Popsations. Grab a meal or something to-go while you shop! We promise you won't leave empty handed.

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Continued from page 1

8/8 - Monthly Bingo, The Church of the Redemption, 1401 Towson St. Refreshments, food, and raffles. Doors at 6pm, bingo starts at 7pm.

8/8 - Science Trivia Crawl, Maryland Science Center, 601 Light St. Science trivia meets scavenger hunt. 7-9pm. \$

8/9-10 - Asia in a Bite Food Fest, 321 E. Cromwell St., Baltimore Peninsula. 11am-7pm.

8/9 - Paddleboard Lessons, 301 E. Cromwell St., Baltimore Peninsula. 9am. \$

8/9 - Inner Harbor SUP Tour, Inner Harbor Marina, 400 Key Hwy. Tour the Inner Harbor on a stand-up paddleboard. 9am. \$

8/9 - Farmers’ Market, Baltimore Museum of Industry, 1415 Key Hwy. Produce, flowers, and ready-to-eat treats. Performance by John Lamkin Favorites Jazz Quintet (11:30am-1pm). 9am-1pm.

8/9 - Boards and Breakfast, Rash Field Park, 201 Key Hwy. Skate lessons for kids 12 and under with pro skater Joey Jett. 9-11am.

8/9 - Floral Arrangement, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Join Katie Quinn for a floral-arranging workshop featuring lots of local blooms. 11am.

8/9 - Shiny Happy Things Workshop, American Visionary Art Museum, 800 Key Hwy. Make your own FLASHIES: dynamic, sparkling decorations made from mirrors and marbles. 1:30-4:30pm. \$

8/9 - Music: Better Off Dead, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors at 7pm. \$

8/9 - Glow in the Dark Paddle, Inner Harbor Marina, 400 Key Hwy. Sunset tour of the Inner Harbor for experienced paddleboarders. 8pm. \$

8/10 - Inner Harbor Kayak Paddling Tour, 401 Light St., promenade near Maryland Science Center. Sightseeing tour to Fells Point and back. 1-4pm. \$

8/10 - Music: Remedy, Riverside Park gazebo, 301 E. Randall St. Live music and food trucks. 5-8pm.

8/10 - Sunset Kayak Tour, 13 Rye St., Baltimore Peninsula. Easy-paced, guided evening paddle on the Middle Branch. 6pm. \$

8/11 - Crafternoon: Old School Games, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Craft your own classic ball-and-cup game. 2pm.

8/12 - Coffee and Classics Book Club, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. This month’s book is *The Penelopiad* by Margaret Atwood. 11am.

8/13 - Baby & Toddler Storytime, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Stories, movement, songs, and play for little ones under 2 with a favorite adult. 10:30am.

8/13 - Preschool Storytime, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Stories, movement, songs, and play for ages 2-5 with a favorite adult. 11:30am.

8/13 - Wellness on the Waterfront: Yoga, Rye Street Park, 301 E. Cromwell St. Outside 45-minute vinyasa (flow) class with Marissa Walch. 6pm.

8/13 - Speed Dating 30-45, Checkerspot Brewing Co., 1421 Ridgely St. 7pm. \$

8/13 - Sunset Salsa, Port Covington Marina, 321 E. Cromwell St. Free Latin dancing lessons, music, local food and drinks. 7pm.

8/13 - LPCA Membership Meeting, Francis Scott Key Elementary/Middle School, 1425 E. Fort Ave. Sponsored by the Locust Point Civic Assoc. 7:30pm.

8/14 - Paddle and Flow Class, Inner Harbor Marina, 400 Key Hwy. Stand-up paddleboarding followed by yoga session on land. 6-7:45am. \$

8/14 - Chocolate and Whiskey Pairing, Sagamore Spirit Distillery, 301 E. Cromwell St. 6:30pm. \$

8/14 - Baltimore Brew, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Sample a variety of cold tea brews and participate in Tea Trivia. 6:30pm.

8/14 - Community Run/Walk, Harry’s Bar, 1036 E. Fort Ave. Distance 3-6 miles. 6:30pm.

8/15 - Kayak Lessons, 301 E. Cromwell St., Baltimore Peninsula. 5pm. \$

8/16 - Paddleboard Lessons, 301 E. Cromwell St., Baltimore Peninsula. 9am. \$

8/16 - Farmers’ Market, Baltimore Museum of Industry, 1415 Key Hwy. Produce, flowers, and ready-to-eat treats. 9am-1pm.

8/16 - Wildlife Gardening: My Indigo World, Rash Field Park, 201 Key Hwy. 10am.

8/16 - Friends of the Light Street Branch monthly meeting, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Volunteers supporting the local branch. 11am.

8/16 - Mess Fest, Maryland Science Center, 601 Light St. Annual celebration of mucky, slimy, and sloppy science. 12-4pm. \$

8/16 - Whiskey on the Waterfront, Sagamore Spirit, 301 E. Cromwell St. Live music, food, and beverages. 12pm.

8/16 - Music: Bob Burke, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Guitarist and former librarian plays songs from the 50s to 80s. 3pm.

8/16 - Music: All Mighty Senators, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors at 7pm. \$

8/17 - Historic Federal Hill Neighborhood Walking Tour, Federal Hill Park (southwest corner), 301 Warren Ave. 9:30am-10:30am. \$

8/17 - Mess Fest, Maryland Science Center, 601 Light St. Annual celebration of mucky, slimy, sticky, and sloppy science. 12-4pm. \$

8/17 - Inner Harbor Kayak Paddling Tour, 401 Light St., promenade near Maryland Science Center. Sightseeing tour to Fells Point and back; experienced paddlers only. 1-4pm. \$

8/17 - Tides & Vibes, Port Covington Marina, 321 E. Cromwell St. Enjoy classic backyard games plus food, drinks, and music. 3-7pm.

8/17 - Sunset Kayak Tour, 13 Rye St., Baltimore Peninsula. Easy-paced, guided evening paddle on the Middle Branch. 6pm. \$

8/17 - Music: All Mighty Senators, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors at 5pm. \$

8/19 - Paddleboard Hockey, 301 E. Cromwell St., Baltimore Peninsula. Registration required. 6pm.

8/20 - Bubble Fun, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Join the Bubble Lady for an interactive experience. 10:30am.

8/20 - Legends and Sights of Baltimore Cruise, Baltimore Finger Piers, 555 Light St. Hear tales of the harbor, history, and port. 11am-1:30pm. \$

8/20 - Extended Hours at the BMI, Baltimore Museum of Industry, 1415 Key Hwy. Experience the history and culture of Baltimore and enjoy the museum’s waterfront campus, free. 4-8pm.

8/20 - Wellness on the Waterfront: Yoga, Rye Street Park, 301 E. Cromwell St. Outside 45-minute vinyasa (flow) class with Marissa Walch. 6pm.

8/20 - Sunset Salsa, Port Covington Marina, 321 E. Cromwell St. Free Latin dancing lessons, music, local food and drinks. 7pm.

8/21 - Paddle and Flow Class, Inner Harbor Marina, 400 Key Hwy. Stand-up paddleboarding followed by yoga session on land. 6-7:45am. \$

8/21 - Community Run/Walk, Harry’s Bar, 1036 E. Fort Ave. 6:30pm.

8/22 - Kayak Lessons, 301 E. Cromwell St., Baltimore Peninsula. 5pm. \$

8/22 - Music: WAX with Palmer Squares and Grilled Lincolns, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors at 7pm. \$

8/23 - Farmers’ Market, Baltimore Museum of Industry, 1415 Key Hwy. Produce, flowers, baked goods, ready-to-eat treats, and more. 9am-1pm.

8/23 - Paddleboard Lessons, 301 E. Cromwell St., Baltimore Peninsula. 9am. \$

8/23 - Peninsula Playhouse Festival, 13 Rye St., Baltimore Peninsula. Arts festival, moon bounce, and food trucks. 3-9pm.

8/23 - Music: Dead Meat, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors at 7pm. \$

8/24 - Inner Harbor Kayak Paddling Tour, 401 Light St., promenade near Maryland Science Center. Sightseeing tour to Fells Point and back; experienced paddlers only. 1-4pm. \$

8/24 - Sunset Kayak Tour, 13 Rye St., Baltimore Peninsula. Easy-paced, guided evening paddle on the Middle Branch. 6pm. \$

8/26 - Sips & Spanish, Checkerspot Brewing Co., 1421 Ridgely St. Practice your Spanish in a casual, friendly setting. 6-7:30pm.

8/27 - Baby & Toddler Storytime, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Stories, movement, songs, and play for little ones under 2 with a favorite adult. 10:30am.

8/27 - Preschool Storytime, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Stories, movement, songs, and play for ages 2-5 with a favorite adult. 11:30am.

8/27 - Wellness on the Waterfront: Yoga, Rye Street Park, 301 E. Cromwell St. Outside 45-minute vinyasa (flow) class with Marissa Walch. 6pm.

8/27 - Sunset Salsa, Port Covington Marina, 321 E. Cromwell St. Free Latin dancing lessons, music, local food and drinks. 7pm.

8/28 - Paddle and Flow Class, Inner Harbor Marina, 400 Key Hwy. Stand-up paddleboarding followed by yoga session on land. 6-7:45am. \$

8/28 - Community Run/Walk, Harry’s Bar, 1036 E. Fort Ave. Distance 3-6 miles. 6:30pm.

8/29 - Kayak Lessons, 301 E. Cromwell St., Baltimore Peninsula. 5pm. \$

8/29 - Music: Braddock Heights, Delightfully Deranged, and CODA, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors at 7pm. \$

8/30 - Paddleboard Lessons, 301 E. Cromwell St., Baltimore Peninsula. 9am. \$

8/30 - Farmers’ Market, Baltimore Museum of Industry, 1415 Key Hwy. Produce, flowers, baked goods, ready-to-eat treats, and more. 9am-1pm.

8/31 - Inner Harbor Kayak Paddling Tour, 401 Light St., promenade near Maryland Science Center. Sightseeing tour to Fells Point and back; experienced paddlers only. 1-4pm. \$

8/31 - Sunset Kayak Tour, 13 Rye St., Baltimore Peninsula. Easy-paced, guided evening paddle on the Middle Branch. 6pm. \$

8/31 - Collective Minds Festival, West Covington Park, 101 W. Cromwell St. House music festival. 12pm. \$

9/3 - Baby & Toddler Storytime, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Stories, movement, songs, and play for little ones under 2 with a favorite adult. 10:30am.

9/3 - Preschool Storytime, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Stories, movement, songs, and play for ages 2-5 with a favorite adult. 11:30am.

9/3 - Farmers’ Market, Checkerspot Brewing Co., 1421 Ridgely St. 5-8pm.

9/3 - Wellness on the Waterfront: Yoga, Rye Street Park, 301 E. Cromwell St. Outside 45-minute vinyasa (flow) class with Marissa Walch. 6pm.



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Sagamore Spirit’s Whiskey on the Waterfront returns on August 16 and September 20. Photo by Mary Braman.

9/4 - Paddle and Flow Class, Inner Harbor Marina, 400 Key Hwy. Stand-up paddleboarding followed by yoga session on land. 6-7:45am. \$

9/4 - Community Run/Walk, Harry’s Bar, 1036 E. Fort Ave. Distance 3-6 miles. 6:30pm.

9/4 - Music: Old Head with Wharf Rats, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors at 7pm. \$

9/6 - Paddleboard Lessons, 301 E. Cromwell St., Baltimore Peninsula. 9am. \$

9/6 - Farmers’ Market, Baltimore Museum of Industry, 1415 Key Hwy. Produce, flowers, and ready-to-eat treats. 9am-1pm.

9/6 - Read with Pride Book Club, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Book discussion of *Glitter and Concrete: A Cultural History of Drag in New York City* by Elyssa Goodman. 11am-12pm.

9/6 - Oysters, Blues, and Brews, 321 E. Cromwell St., Baltimore Peninsula. Family fun activities, music, and demonstrations. 12pm.

9/6 - Music: Gordon Sterling & The People, Sneaky Hat, and Three Fourteen, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors at 7pm. \$

9/9 - Coffee and Classics Book Club, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. This month’s book is *Giovanni’s Room* by James Baldwin. 11am.

9/9 - South Baltimore Neighborhood Assoc. General Meeting, AJ’s on Hanover, 1500 S. Hanover St., 2nd floor. 6:30pm.

9/10 - Baby & Toddler Storytime, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Stories, movement, songs, and play for little ones under 2 with a favorite adult. 10:30am.

9/10 - Preschool Storytime, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Stories, movement, songs, and play for ages 2-5 with a favorite adult. 11:30am.

9/10 - Wellness on the Waterfront: Yoga, Rye Street Park, 301 E. Cromwell St. Outside 45-minute vinyasa (flow) class with Marissa Walch. 6pm.

9/10 - LPCA Membership Meeting, Francis Scott Key Elementary/Middle School, 1425 E. Fort Ave. Sponsored by the Locust Point Civic Assoc. 7:30pm.

9/11 - Paddle and Flow Class, Inner Harbor Marina, 400 Key Hwy. Stand-up paddleboarding followed by yoga session on land. 6-7:45am. \$

9/11 - Chocolate and Whiskey Pairing, Sagamore Spirit Distillery, 301 E. Cromwell St. 6:30pm. \$

9/11 - Community Run/Walk, Harry’s Bar, 1036 E. Fort Ave. Distance 3-6 miles. 6:30pm.

9/11 - Music: TAND with Walker Nester Ranger and Peak, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors at 7pm. \$

9/12-14 - Defenders’ Day Celebrations, Fort McHenry, 2400 E. Fort Ave. Events commemorating the defense of Baltimore against British attack in 1814.

9/12 - Monthly Bingo, The Church of the Redemption, 1401 Towson St. Refreshments, food, and raffles. Doors at 6pm, bingo starts at 7pm.

9/12 - Sip & Sourdough, Checkerspot Brewing Co., 1421 Ridgely St. Learn the essentials of sourdough bread making. 6-8:30pm. \$

9/12 - Music: The Lovable Idiots, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors at 7pm. \$

9/13 - Paddleboard Lessons, 301 E. Cromwell St., Baltimore Peninsula. 9am. \$

9/13 - Farmers’ Market, Baltimore Museum of Industry, 1415 Key Hwy. Produce, flowers, and ready-to-eat treats. 9am-1pm.

9/13 - Boards and Breakfast, Rash Field Park, 201 Key Hwy. Skate lessons for kids under 12 with pro skater Joey Jett. 9-11am.

9/13 - Medicare Simplified, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Presentation on Medicare and Medicaid. 1pm.

9/13 - Locust Point Festival, Latrobe Park. Food, vendors, games, and live music. Sponsored by the Locust Point Civic Assoc. 11am-6pm.

9/13 - R&B Soul Food Festival, West Covington Park, 101 W. Cromwell St., Baltimore Peninsula. R&B classics, food trucks, games. 2-10pm. \$

9/14 - Inner Harbor Kayak Paddling Tour, 401 Light St., promenade near Maryland Science Center. Sightseeing tour to Fells Point and back. 1-4pm. \$

9/14 - Music: Ebb & Nova, Riverside Park gazebo, 301 E. Randall St. Live music and food trucks. 4-7pm.

9/16 - Playdate at the Library, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Bubbles, toys, and enriching playtime. 10:30am.

9/16 - FHNA Meeting, Light Street Presbyterian Church, 809 Light St. Monthly meeting of the Federal Hill Neighborhood Assoc. 6:30pm.

9/17 - Baby & Toddler Storytime, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Stories, movement, songs, and play for little ones under 2 with a favorite adult. 10:30am.

9/17 - Preschool Storytime, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Stories, movement, songs, and play for ages 2-5 with a favorite adult. 11:30am.

9/17 - Extended Hours at the BMI, Baltimore Museum of Industry, 1415 Key Hwy. Experience the history and culture of Baltimore and enjoy the museum’s waterfront campus, free. 4-8pm.

9/17 - Wellness on the Waterfront: Yoga, Rye Street Park, 301 E. Cromwell St. Outside 45-minute vinyasa (flow) class with Marissa Walch. 6pm.

9/18 - Paddle and Flow Class, Inner Harbor Marina, 400 Key Hwy. Stand-up paddleboarding followed by yoga session on land. 6-7:45am. \$

9/18 - Community Run/Walk, Harry’s Bar, 1036 E. Fort Ave. Distance 3-6 miles. 6:30pm.

9/20 - Ya Gotta Regatta, Downtown Sailing Center, 1425 Key Hwy. 8am-4pm.

9/20 - Paddleboard Lessons, 301 E. Cromwell St., Baltimore Peninsula. 9am. \$

9/20 - Farmers’ Market, Baltimore Museum of Industry, 1415 Key Hwy. Produce, flowers, and ready-to-eat treats. Performance by John Lamkin Favorites Jazz Quintet (11:30am-1pm). 9am-1pm.

9/20 - Wildlife Gardening: Bugs and Butterflies, Rash Field Park, 201 Key Hwy. 10am.

9/20 - Friends of the Light Street Branch, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Monthly meeting of volunteers supporting the local branch. 11am.

9/20 - Whiskey on the Waterfront, Sagamore Spirit, 301 E. Cromwell St. Live music, food, and beverages. 12pm.

9/21 - Historic Federal Hill Neighborhood Walking Tour, Federal Hill Park (southwest corner), 301 Warren Ave. 9:30-10:30am.\$

9/21 - Inner Harbor Kayak Paddling Tour, 401 Light St., promenade near Maryland Science Center. Sightseeing tour to Fells Point and back; experienced paddlers only. 1-4pm. \$

9/23 - Crafternoon: Decorate Your Own Pencil Case, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. 3:30pm.

9/24 - Baby & Toddler Storytime, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Stories, movement, songs, and play for little ones under 2 with a favorite adult. 10:30am.

9/24 - Preschool Storytime, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Stories, movement, songs, and play for ages 2-5 with a favorite adult. 11:30am.

9/24 - Wellness on the Waterfront: Yoga, Rye Street Park, 301 E. Cromwell St. Outside 45-minute vinyasa (flow) class with Marissa Walch. 6pm.

9/25 - Paddle and Flow Class, Inner Harbor Marina, 400 Key Hwy. Stand-up paddleboarding followed by yoga session on land. 6-7:45am. \$

9/25 - Community Run/Walk, Harry’s Bar, 1036 E. Fort Ave. Distance 3-6 miles. 6:30pm.

9/26 - Wine & Dinosaurs, Maryland Science Center, 601 Light St. Explore the prehistoric with a glass of Linganore Wine Cellars wine in hand. 7-9pm. \$

9/27 - Paddleboard Lessons, 301 E. Cromwell St., Baltimore Peninsula. 9am. \$

9/27 - Fee-Free Admission to Fort McHenry, 2400 E. Fort Ave. No admission charged in honor of National Public Lands Day. 9am-4:45pm.

9/27 - Farmers’ Market, Baltimore Museum of Industry, 1415 Key Hwy. Produce, flowers, and ready-to-eat treats. 9am-1pm.

9/28 - Inner Harbor Kayak Paddling Tour, 401 Light St., promenade near Maryland Science Center. Sightseeing tour to Fells Point and back; experienced paddlers only. 1-4pm. \$

10/1 - Baby & Toddler Storytime, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Stories, movement, songs, and play for little ones under 2 with a favorite adult. 10:30am.

10/1 - Preschool Storytime, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Stories, movement, songs, and play for ages 2-5 with a favorite adult. 11:30am.

10/1 - Farmers’ Market, Checkerspot Brewing Co., 1421 Ridgely St. 5-8pm.

10/2 - Paddle and Flow Class, Inner Harbor Marina, 400 Key Hwy. Stand-up paddleboarding followed by yoga session on land. 6-7:45am. \$

10/2 - History with Hopkins, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Walking tour of Federal Hill led by Johns Hopkins. 6-7:30pm. \$

10/2 - Community Run/Walk, Harry’s Bar, 1036 E. Fort Ave. Distance 3-6 miles. 6:30pm.

10/3 - Peninsula Post Issue #27 available free at outlets throughout the SoBo peninsula.

10/4 - Paddleboard Lessons, 301 E. Cromwell St., Baltimore Peninsula. 9am. \$

10/4 - Farmers’ Market, Baltimore Museum of Industry, 1415 Key Hwy. Produce, flowers, and ready-to-eat treats. 9am-1pm.

10/4 - Read with Pride Book Club, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Book discussion of *Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe. 11am-12pm.

10/6 - Light Street Writers Exchange, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Read-and-critique group for writers with interest in all forms of writing. 6-7:30pm.

10/6 - One Maryland One Book, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Book discussion of *Kin: Rooted in Hope* by Carole Boston Weath

Healthy Volunteers Needed for Research Study

Healthy males and females, ages 18-100, are needed for an outpatient research study.

This research study is investigating how Lyme disease may affect the brain and cognition. We are recruiting healthy volunteers, male or female, ages 18-100, to participate as control participants in this study.

Participation involves 1 visit lasting about 4 hours (can be broken into 2 visits for 2 hours each). Tests include imaging the brain in an MRI scanner, a blood draw, memory tests, and health survey questions.

People who complete the study will receive \$150 for the visit, a parking voucher, and a free DVD of their brain.

To learn more and see if you qualify, call 410-387-8510
Confidential.

Principal Investigator: C.L. Marvel
Protocol #: IRB00418866

SoBo Photo Contest Winners Announced at Library Ceremony



“Snowy Day Celebration” by Kentaro Miura



“Lighted Boat Parade” by Patricia A. Sumner

Thirteen SoBo photographers entered their work in this year’s SoBo Photo Contest. The third annual event, sponsored by South Baltimore United, Inc., the nonprofit publisher of the *Peninsula Post*, focused on the theme of “Baltimore Celebrates.” The 33 images entered in the contest illustrated celebrations large and small around Charm City.

Entries were reviewed by Baltimore artist Crystal Moll for the Celebrity Judge Awards and by 160 participants in the People’s Choice Award online poll, conducted in early July. The winners were announced at a public awards ceremony July 24 at the Enoch Pratt Free Library on Light Street. Cash prizes were awarded.

The Celebrity Judge Awards went to: Patricia A. Sumner’s “Lighted Boat Parade” (First Place), James Frommeyer’s “Inner Harbor Christmas Boat Parade” (Second Place), Molly Bolek’s “No Day Like Opening Day” (Third Place), and Molly Bolek’s “Celebrate a Healthy Harbor” (Honorable Mention).

People’s Choice Awards went to: Kentaro Miura’s “Snowy Day Celebration” (First Place) and Tom Gisriel’s “Christmas Lighting of the Washington Monument” (Honorable Mention).

The winning photographs are now on display at the Library through October, and they are featured on the *Peninsula Post* blog (sobopost.org). – S.C.

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